

Columbia River Chum Salmon

- Chum salmon return to the Columbia River from mid-October through mid-December with spawning occurring from late October through early January.
- Chum were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1999. Non-Indian fisheries are limited to harvest impacts of 5% or less.
- Fisheries targeting chum currently do not occur.
- Chum salmon returns are primarily from natural production.
- Primary production areas for chum salmon include the Grays River in Washington, smaller tributaries just downstream from Bonneville Dam, and the mainstem Columbia River in specific locations from the I-205 Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam.
- Washington index areas have been surveyed annually since 1950 and specific areas of the mainstem Columbia River have been surveyed annually since 1998.
- Flows in the Columbia River are managed to provide spawning habitat for chum in the mainstem below Bonneville Dam.
- 10-year plan – no directed chum harvest.

Table 9. Escapement Index Values for Chum in Washington Lower Columbia River Tributaries, 1950-2006.			
Year	Chum (Washington Tributaries)		
	Miles Surveyed	Fish Observed	Fish/Mile
50's Ave	2.2	903	450
60's Ave	4.9	767	179
70's Ave	6	450	77
80's Ave	6.6	721	105
1990	7.1	832	117
1991	7.1	673	95
1992	7.1	3,273	461
1993	7.1	1,411	199
1994	7.1	509	72
1995	7.2	922	128
1996	7.2	1,545	215
1997	7.2	1,054	146
1998	7.2	1,666	231
1999	7.2	2,096	291
90's Ave	7.2	1,398	196
2000	6.1	2,425	398
2001	5.8	4,551	785
2002	6.7	8,662	1,293
2003	7	8,934	1,276
2004	7	11,439	1,634
2005	9.1	3,378	371
2006	9.1	4,729	519

^{1.} In 1975 the database was reorganized into 9.3 miles of ten standard index streams that best indicate trends in escapement since 1967. Prior to 1967 the same ten streams were used; however, survey miles and frequency varied. In 1968, two index streams were not surveyed and in 1985 observations in an index survey heavily influenced by hatchery adult introduction were not included.